

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action mailed July 14, 2004 is acknowledged and the Examiner is thanked for suggesting amendments to improve the claims.

In addition to amending claims 1, 12 and 13 to meet the Examiner's objections, along with consequential amendment of claim 3, the opportunity has been taken to correct minor typographical errors in claims 14 and 19. [The amendment to claim 14 may not be obvious but simply removes the space between the last word and the terminal period.]

It is asserted that those claims in the above listing identified as "(Original)" have not been amended with respect to the claims as filed following preliminary amendment. It is also asserted that no new matter has been added to the claims identified as "(Currently amended)" that was not disclosed in the text of the specification as filed.

CONCLUSION

If, for any reason, the Examiner determines that the pending claims are not in a condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner call the undersigned attorney at (925) 249 1300 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding *before* the issuance of another action. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

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